UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division

In re:	)	
	)	
RODNEY TRIPP,	)	Case No. 16-13966-BFK
	)	Chapter 7
Debtor.	)	

AMENDED ORDER ALLOWING LEGAL FEES AND STRIKING RESPONSE AND AMENDED RESPONSE

On January 30, 2017, the Debtor filed a Motion for Sanctions for Violation of the Automatic Stay. Docket No. 12. Valoit, LLC ("Valoit"), filed a Response, and two Supplemental Responses. Docket Nos. 15, 18, 19. None of these responses were signed by counsel admitted to this Court. The Court heard the Motion on February 14, 2017, at which the Court found that Valoit had violated the automatic stay. The Court awarded the Debtor his fees and costs pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(k), subject to a review of the fees requested. The Court specifically advised Mr. Varshney, who appeared on behalf of Valoit, that he could not represent Valoit in any proceedings before the Court because he is not a member of the Virginia State Bar and has not been admitted to the Bar of this Court. The Court requested counsel for the Debtor to submit a statement of his fees and costs, which counsel has done. Docket No. 23. Despite the Court's admonition at the February 14th hearing, Mr. Varshney has filed a Reply and an amended Reply, on behalf of Valoit. Docket Nos. 31, 33.

First, the Court finds that there is cause to strike the Reply and the Amended Reply. Mr. Varshney is not a member of the Bar of this Court. He is not a member of the Virginia State Bar. Valoit is a limited liability company, and Mr. Varshney cannot represent Valoit in this Court. *See* Local Rules 2090-1(F) ("All counsel making an appearance or presenting papers, suits or pleadings for filing other than a request for notices under FRBP 2002(g), must be members in good standing of the Bar of this Court and members in good standing of the Bar of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the state in which he or she is admitted"), 5005-1(B) ("Any attorney offering a petition, pleading or other document other than a request for notices under FRBP 2002(g), for filing on behalf of a client, must be a member in good standing of the bar of this Court"). Mr. Varshney has been warned in this case that he cannot represent Valoit. He was warned in a previous case as well. *In re Jones*, 15-10408-BFK, Docket No. 20.

Second, the Court has independently reviewed the requested fees (Docket No. 23) and finds that they are reasonable and should be awarded pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(k).

It is therefore **ORDERED**:

1. Valoit's Reply and Amended Reply, Docket Nos. 31 and 33, are stricken from the record. Mr. Varshney is ORDERED not to file any further pleadings in this Court on behalf of Valoit without counsel admitted to the Bar of this Court. Any further violations of this Order, in this case or any other case before the Court, will result in the Court exercising its contempt powers against Mr. Varshney.

2. The Court hereby allows and awards the Debtor the sum of **$2,590.57** in legal fees against Valoit, LLC, to be paid within 10 days of the date of this Order. If not timely paid, the Debtor can apply to this Court for entry of a final judgment against Valoit in that amount, upon which execution may issue.

3. The Clerk will mail copies of this Order, or will provide cm-ecf notice of its entry, to the parties below.

Date: Apr 14 2017

Alexandria, Virginia

/s/ Brian F. Kenney

Brian F. Kenney
United States Bankruptcy Judge

eod 4/14/2017

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